

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

January 25: "Dia di Betico" the first national holiday of the year



A statue of the late "Betico"

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba is preparing to celebrate the day dedicated to their "Liberador," Gilberto Francois, "Betico" Croes, tomorrow, January 25. The national holiday is conducted on his birth date. He was the principal instrument of establishing island pride and symbols, such as the Aruban flag and national anthem, as well as the chief negotiator of Aruban Independence, or "Status Aparte," from the other five islands of the Netherlands Antilles.

G.F. "Betico" Croes died in November of 1986, after being gravely injured in a car accident on December 31,

1985, on the eve of Aruba becoming an independent nation within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Each year, island and visiting dignitaries pay homage to his memory with an official ceremony conducted at the Plaza G.F. Betico Croes, located behind the Cas di Cultura on the eastern end of L.G. Smih Boulevard. All the public is encouraged to attend this solemn ceremony, this Saturday, January 25, beginning at 5:00 PM. Floral wreaths will be placed at the base of his statue by representatives of parliament, the government, the Croes Family and the Croes Foundation.

Addressing the gathering this year will be Prime Minister Mike Eman and the Minister of Tourism, Transport, Primary Sector and Culture, Otmar Oduber. Following a brief musical performance, events will move to the primary stage of the plaza.

As is custom a cultural evening will follow, with musical and dance performances by several island singers, bands and dance groups, both folkloric and modern. The bands Youth Xtreme and famed island vocalist Claudius Phillips and his band will provide a rousing end to the evening. Several booths will occupy the plaza selling typical island snacks and refreshments, as well as souvenir gifts and original artwork and handicrafts.

Traditionally, Dia di Betico is a day when all island museums are open without charge, and numerous activities are conducted throughout the day at several of the community centers. Centro di Bario Playa Pabao is known for its annual holiday bicycle rally, now attract-

ing nearly 200 enthusiastic bikers of all ages making the run from the center, on the western outskirts of Oranjestad, through back roads to Arashi, north of Palm Beach and back again. It takes about 3 hours and begins at 9:00 AM. All are welcome.

The Aruba Historical Museum, located in Fort Zoutman in Oranjestad, will be unveiling a new exhibit called "XPO 1880" on Friday evening for invited guests, and it will be on display to the public on Saturday. It is based on family heirlooms passed down through generations, with the new young generation of Arubans invited to relate and imaginatively embellish the stories about these beloved objects, which have been passed down through the years.

By Rosalie Klein

Balloon Parade In San Nicolas Is this Sunday!



This Sunday January 26th the Balloon Parade, one of the most colorful and charming on the Carnival roster, will take place in San Nicolas. In celebration of Aruba's 60th Carnival jubilee this parade this year will be much bigger with an estimate of 1000 kids joining the parade. The parade will be leaving the Joe Laveist at 1 p.m. and will take the same route as Children's Parade San Nicolas.

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Snowden sees 'no chance' for fair trial in US

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Fugitive intelligence leaker Edward Snowden said Thursday he has no plans to return to the United States, because he would have "no chance" for a fair trial.

"The hundred-year old law under which I've been charged... forbids a public interest defense," he said in a question-and-answer session on the "Free Snowden" website.

The comments during the former National Security Agency contractor's first such public forum since June.

Snowden was asked about the conditions under which he would return to the United States, where he faces espionage charges for leaking numerous documents about NSA surveillance programs.

"Returning to the US, I think, is the best resolution for

the government, the public, and myself, but it's unfortunately not possible in the face of current whistleblower protection laws, which, through a failure in law, did not cover national security contractors like myself," he said.

"Maybe when Congress comes together to end the programs... they'll reform the Whistleblower Protection Act, and we'll see a mechanism for all Americans, no matter who they work for, to get a fair trial."

His comments came hours after a US government privacy watchdog panel said the NSA's indiscriminate collection of bulk phone records is illegal and has had minimal value in fighting terrorism.

Also Thursday, US Attorney General Eric Holder said he was unlikely to consider clemency for Snowden.

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MIX UP Mondays: A new concept! this monday January 27th at Cas di Cultura



ORANJESTAD -- Introducing a brand new concept to Aruba, MIX UP Mondays provides a platform for young talented and already established artists to show their discipline to the public. The first edition will take place at Cas Di Cultura the 27th of January 2014 at 8:00 PM. Similar to the open stage idea, the night does highlight selected art forms per edition.

This first edition will focus on Circus. Dance and Jazz music. Featured are the very talented Jolinde Nijland,

a trapeze artist that has worked with Cirque du Soleil and the massive Sensation White worldwide dance events, accompanied by the soulful tunes and sensual voice of Roel de Vries. Niels Onstenk, Voted Holland's Best Gitarist 2013 will provide the audience with his repertoire and Sanghita Muntslag, who sounds and looks like Erykah Badu, will fill the night with romance. Silvia Mataloni, Italian born dancer, will give her velvet rope show on their music and a special performance is



given by Ritmo Cubano, of which Diego and Yamila will perform an intimate and passionate dance, ... in the air!

This evening is suitable for everybody, all ages and languages because the songs that will be song are in English while the performances take place. Tickets of afl15, - are available at Cas Di Cul-



tura and at VCC International NV. For more information/reservations please contact Jane Vermaas,

JANE PR + at 2975621505 or +2975837072 or mail jan-evermaas@gmail.com



SETAR

In connection with the celebration of 'Dia di Betico' SETAR wishes to inform that all teleshops and SETAR store will be closed to the public on:

Saturday, January 25, 2014

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SETAR wishes the Aruban community a **Happy 'Dia di Betico'**



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Catch the 56th Grammy Awards via CBS on channel 16 this Sunday!



ORANJESTAD -- This Sunday January 26th at 9 p.m. Cable TV Aruba will be transmitting the 56th Grammy Awards via CBS channel 16.

This grand night will take place at Staples Center, Los Angeles.

The Grammy Award is for all fans and music lovers who get a chance

every year to enjoy the presentations of the most popular and hottest artists in the industry at the moment. During this evening they present "live" to the public. Well-known rapper LL Cool will be the host of the evening, this being his 3rd consecutive year hosting this grand event.

Some presentations during this evening will be: Rapper Kendrick Lamar, rock

group Imagine Dragons, Robin Thicke together with Chicago and a presentation by Metallica with China's ambassador Lang Lang.

Daft Punk, collaborating with Stevie Wonder, Pharrell Williams and Nile Rodgers, and also Pink and Nate Ruess of Fun will be there. The night will be closed by Nine Inch Nails together with Queens Of The Stone Age, Dave Grohl and Buckingham.

Hitting the stage on this exciting star-studded night will be also Taylor Swift, Lorde, Katy Perry, Paul McCartney, Hunter Hayes, Gary Clark Jr., Mackelmore and Ryan Lewis. and of course the grand performance by Beyonce and Jay-Z.

Presenting grammys on this night will be Marc Anthony, Gloria Estefan, Alicia Keys, Bruno Mars and Miguel, Zac Brown, Anna Farris, Jamie Foxx, Juanes, Steven Tyler and many more.

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Open House to get acquainted with the Police Force



SAN NICOLAAS -- In order to get the community acquainted with the daily work of the Police Force, with the objective of also recruiting young persons for the Force, they organize an Open House day. This is planned for Saturday on Betico Croes Day.

The event will take place at the E.J. Watty Vos Police Academy in the Fortheuvelstraat in San Nicolaas beginning at 10:00am to 3:00pm.

During the Open House everyone will be able to see a demonstration of the Arrest Team, the K9 Unit, the Mo-

bile Unit, Helicopter, Exercises, VIP Team and the cycle Unit.

Along with the demonstrations, they will also submit information regarding the use and dangers of drugs, arms and how to deal with these issues and all those interested to join the police force will also get all the information needed.

They will have a bar and well stocked kitchen. This event is traditionally well attended by the general public, who make this sort of a Family Day.

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Noted island entertainer Claudius Phillips is Dressed 2 Impress!



SAN NICOLAS -- An icon of Aruba's carnival celebration, and considered by many the island's most talented singer, musician and composer, is popular performer Claudius Phillips. A superstar of the annual carnival musical competitions, he has won a record number of crowns as Roadmarch, Calypso and Tumba King, as well as bringing a lively style to the great pop songs of past decades at various hotel venues.

Claudius is a San Nicolas boy, born and bred, and with many friends, government dignitaries and members of his community, celebrated the realization of a long-time dream with the opening of his club, "Dress 2 Impress," better known as "D2I."

He unveiled the new club to this select group and media

on Wednesday evening, but the official grand opening is tonight. This is a new kind of venue for Aruba's "Sunrise City," elegant and chic, but cozy. It has a comfortably-sized dance floor next to the ample bandstand, a stunning VIP lounging area, and a stylish bar section for conversation and admiring a fraction of the owner's many musical awards, which are displayed on his "Wall of Fame."

Claudius has long been a staunch supporter of his neighborhood, and the many attractions and virtues of San Nicolas. He is very proud to present this extremely appealing venue targeting the over-21 crowd with discerning taste in music. Patrons can expect some of the best from this dynamic performer, who will be on hand regularly to perhaps do a turn at the keyboards, with very little coaxing. During the unveiling event, Claudius expressed his heartfelt gratitude to his interior designer, Anthony Angela, for the tasteful decor and ambiance. Con-



verting this corner spot just at the end of the block of the old Astoria Hotel, was a Herculean task, which he took on personally with the help of his "Cheezy Boyz" team, a group of devoted friends eager to see such an attractive venue established in the heart of downtown San Nicolas. Located where there is ample parking available, it is sure to become a popular place for the regularly schedule happy hours and live performances throughout the week.

Media personality and an aficionado of island clubs, Elvis Weert, declared "I am truly impressed with what Claudius has done here. I have known him since child-

hood, and he was determined to make this happen, and he has done it beautifully. It is a very unique and important step for San Nicolas."

Aruba's Minister of Economic Affairs, Communications, Energy and Environment, Mike de Meza, who harbors a special interest in his home town, lauded the club as a precursor to other attractions that will revitalize commerce and social exchange in San Nicolas.

This charming lounge offers an excellent destination for vacationers to rub elbows with the local community and experience a stylish taste of island life and play. Phillips cited his choice of name

"D2I" or "Dress to Impress" as a prompt to patrons to realize this is mature club with an elegant atmosphere "where the ladies can dress in their best, as I know they like to do. When we go out looking good, I know it makes us feel good, and so that will set the atmosphere for the place. It is a welcoming, cozy, but elegant lounge where people can enjoy a snack, hear some great music, dance, and feel they are among friends."

The staff and management of THE MORNING NEWS offer Claudius congratulations on realizing the dream for which he has worked so long and hard, and all success in his new venture.

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Some nations ready to deploy Syria peacekeepers: Kerry

DAVOS (AFP) - US Secretary of State John Kerry said Thursday that some countries might be prepared to send peacekeeping troops to Syria, as the UN leads efforts to bring the warring sides together and end the war.

The top US diplomat also acknowledged in an interview with Dubai-based Al-Arabiya television that President Bashar al-Assad was not ready to make peace.

Kerry was speaking a day after telling the opening of a peace conference in Switzerland that the Syrian leader could have no role in any future transitional government after three years of war.

Expectations are low for a breakthrough at the talks, dubbed Geneva II, which bring the opposition and the regime together for the first time since an uprising began in March 2011.

But as the UN works on trying to get both sides around the negotiating table today, the United States has called for agreement on local ceasefires and improved aid access to reach stricken communities.

"If there is a peace agreement there are many countries that have already offered to step up and be peacekeepers in the new Syria," Kerry said.



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New Jersey governor's campaign, party subpoenaed by feds

NEW YORK (AFP) - New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's re-election campaign and the state's Republican Party committee have been served subpoenas from federal prosecutors investigating a scandal over the deliberate shutdown of a key bridge to spite a political rival, an attorney confirmed Thursday.

"We can confirm that the Christie for Governor reelection campaign and the New Jersey Republican State Committee received subpoenas for documents from the US attorney's office" in New Jersey, Mark D. Sheridan, a lawyer with the law firm representing the two entities, told AFP Thursday.

These latest subpoenas come "in addition to the subpoena the campaign previously received from the state legislative committee," which is conducting a parallel investigation, Sheridan said.

"All three subpoenas focus on the closure of lanes on the George Washington Bridge," he said.

Christie, regarded as a frontrunner for the Republican presidential campaign in 2016, has been on the defensive since it emerged his office was behind the shutting down of lanes on the George Washington Bridge in September.

The closures were apparently meant to punish a mayor who refused to endorse Christie's successful reelection bid.

Christie maintains he had been unaware of any political motive behind the action.

After the scandal emerged, he quickly sacked a senior assistant.

"The campaign and the state party intend to cooperate with the US attorney's office and the state legislative committee and will respond to the subpoenas accordingly," Sheridan said.

Some twenty people and entities last week received subpoenas from the committee.

Adding to Christie's woes, the Democratic mayor of Hoboken, New Jersey, Dawn Zimmer, accused New Jersey's lieutenant governor over the weekend of threatening to withhold money for Hurricane Sandy relief from her Democratic stronghold city unless she approved a redevelopment plan which Christie supported.

Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno has categorically denied the accusations.

Colombian rebels say Santos govt escalates war

HAVANA (AFP) - FARC guerrillas Thursday accused President Juan Manuel Santos of escalating the war in Colombia even as his government engages in peace talks here.

The comments by the FARC's chief negotiator Ivan Marquez came in a week in which 26 rebels were reported killed in fighting in Colombia.

In Montevideo, Uruguay's President Jose Mujica said he would meet with Santos and the FARC delegation in Havana next week in an effort to speed up the peace talks.

Marquez accused Santos of having a "militaristic" approach that sees the use of force as "the key to achieving peace."

"One cannot distort reality believing that it is correct to escalate the war as if there were no talks, or that one can advance a dialogue pretending that the country is not suffering from the ravages of the confrontation," he told reporters here.

The FARC suffered heavy battlefield losses this week in a succession of Colombian military operations.

The Colombian army said 14 rebels were killed in an air

and ground assault over the weekend on a rebel base in a rural region near the Venezuelan border.

On Tuesday, seven more guerrillas were killed in another army operation in the center of the country, and on Wednesday five died in another clash, according to army statements and sources.

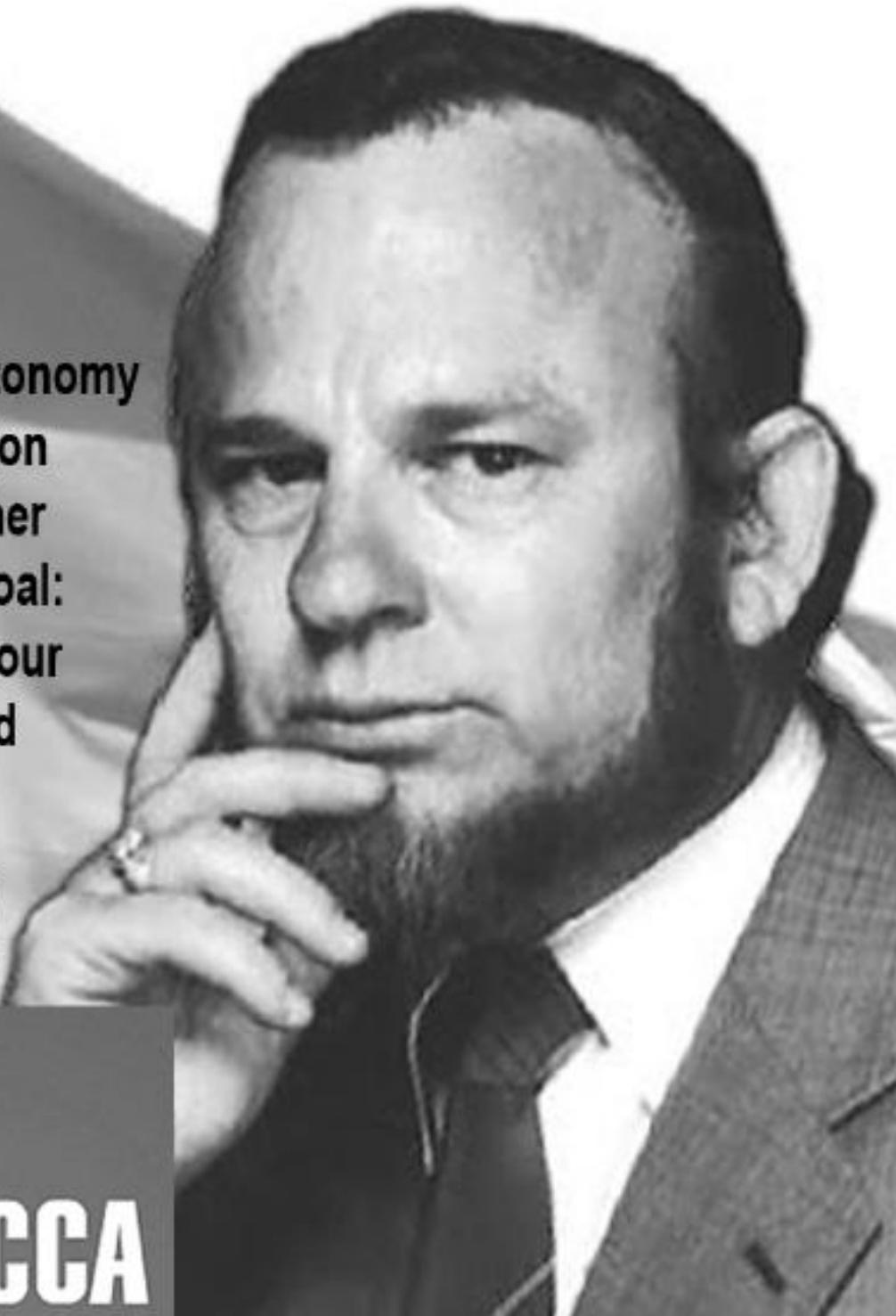
Santos on Wednesday reiterated a vow to keep the pressure on the FARC even as he pursues a comprehensive peace at the Havana talks.

Mujica, a former leftist guerrilla himself, told the Uruguayan weekly *Busqueda* in an interview published Thursday that he would meet with the two sides next week in Havana after a Latin American summit.

"I am going to talk with President Juan Manuel Santos and the FARC," he said.


"I want to continue helping once again -- concretely, to accelerate the negotiating process," he said.

"Never before in the 50 years since this confrontation began, has peace been so close. This is a superior objective and deserves every support," he said.



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Gilberto François "Betico" Croes



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Congratulates Aruba on "Dia di Betico"

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Anti-World Cup protests planned in 36 Brazilian cities

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Opponents of the upcoming World Cup in Brazil said they have scheduled protest demonstrations in 36 cities for Saturday. Under the slogan "there won't be a Cup", the Rio Anonymous group called for the protests on its Facebook page Thursday, calling it "the first action this year to say no to the World Cup."

Organizers are railing against police violence, inadequate social services and the billions of dollars being spent on staging the World Cup, which is to be held in 12 host cities from June 12 to July 13.

"The goal of the protests is to fight for the interests of the people and of any person who wants a country with more justice and less inequality," they said.

"FIFA (world's football governing body) go home" and "There won't be a Cup," they added in an appeal also carried on Twitter.

The call appears to be a bid to revive last June's nationwide street demonstrations, which brought more than one million people onto the streets nation-



wide to press for similar demands.

Saturday's demonstrations would take place across Brazil, including in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Salvador, Porto Alegre, Curitiba and Brasilia, organizers said.

In Rio, scene of several protests since last June's massive demonstrations against corruption and the cost of the World Cup, the highlight will be a rally outside the famed Copacabana Palace hotel on Copacabana beach.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil's economic capital and most populous city, a protest is planned near the MASP art museum on the central Avenida Paulista.





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Swiss mother cuts baby's throat after arrest in Spain

MADRID (AFP) - A 40-year-old Swiss mother killed her sick, 10-month-old baby boy by cutting his throat while she was under arrest in Spain, police said Thursday.

Despite being under police detention at a hospital in the southeastern Spanish coastal city of Torrevieja, she managed to trick officers to carry out the act, a Spanish police spokesman said.

"She cut his neck with a kitchen knife and then cut her own neck. Her prognosis is serious. The injury to her neck is serious," the spokesman said. "She said she was going to bathe him or change his diaper. She took advantage of that moment to kill him," he added.

"The policeman with her saw her making strange movements and intervened. He saw she had cut the baby's neck and was trying to cut her own. It was all in the same movement.

Swiss police had issued an international arrest after the woman took her baby from the centre he was being cared for in the canton of Zurich on Christmas Eve.

The woman had lost custody of her son, he said.

Spanish police detained the

woman at a Carrefour supermarket in Torrevieja on Wednesday after she had been spotted by someone in the city.

Police had taken her and the child to a hospital so that the baby could be treated for hydrocephalus, in which a build-up of water pressures the brain.



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Lingonberries could prevent obesity and diabetes: study

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Lingonberries, a fruit common in Scandinavian cuisine, may be able to help prevent weight gain and high sugar and cholesterol levels, Swedish scientists said Thursday of a new study.

In the study, which was conducted by researchers at Lund University using mice with a tendency to store fat as a model for overweight humans, the animals were fed a high-fat diet and different types of berries during three months.

"Lingonberries were the best berry in the manner that they limited the weight gain of the high-fat fed mice," Lund University diabetes researcher Karin Berger told AFP.

The high-fat fed animals given lingonberries did not put on more weight than a group that had eaten a low-fat diet in the same period, and their blood sugar levels were similar.

Also, their cholesterol levels were lower than those of the mice who had a high-fat diet

without any berry supplement.

The other fruits used in the study, which was published this month in the Journal of Nutrition and Metabolism, were bilberries, raspberries, crowberries, blackberries, prunes and acai berries.

The researchers were surprised to find that the Brazilian acai berry, which has been marketed as a super berry with weight-loss properties, had the opposite effect on the mice.

They led to "weight gain and higher levels of fat in the liver", the researchers explained in a statement, where they also said the lingonberries' results could be due to their content of polyphenol, an antioxidant.

The team plans to develop the experiment on humans, but does not have a starting date for the project.

The researchers said that up to 20 percent of the mice's diet was lingonberries.

"It isn't realistic for humans to eat such a high proportion," Berger said in the statement.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HAPPY BETICO DAY

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Justin Bieber arrested 'drag-racing while intoxicated'

MIAMI (AFP) - Pop prince Justin Bieber was arrested for drag racing while intoxicated Thursday, Miami police said, in what was only the Canadian singer's latest brush with US law.

Authorities in Miami Beach, Florida reported that, at the time of his arrest, 19-year-old Bieber was driving a rented Lamborghini under the influence of either drugs or alcohol.

"Bieber was arrested at 4:11 am (0911 GMT) Miami Beach police spokeswoman Vivian Hernandez told AFP.



Miami Beach Police Chief Raymond Martinez told US media that Bieber was incoherent at the time of his arrest, and was unable to produce a valid driver's license. A police report published in US media revealed that he failed a sobriety test, saying that Bieber "did not perform to standards." He also exhibited "a flushed face, bloodshot eyes, and the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his breath," the arresting officer wrote. Miami Beach Police added via Twitter that they had also arrested the rapper Khalil Amir Shari'eff in the same incident. News reports said Shari'eff had been driving a red Ferrari while racing against Bieber's yellow Lamborghini. Hernandez, meanwhile, told AFP that, at the time of his arrest, Bieber was with "a young lady" whose identity she declined to reveal. Later on Thursday Justin Bieber made a point of showing off his tattoos and his muscles during his court appearance Bieber appeared via closed circuit TV as the judge set bond in his DUI/resisting arrest/driving on a suspended license case. Check out how Bieber rolled up his jumpsuit sleeves. He let his arms do the talking because he said nothing as the judge set bail at \$2,500 ... which we're know he can afford.

J.Lo, Pitbull, Claudia Leite to sing official World Cup anthem

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - US pop music stars Jennifer Lopez and Pitbull will join Brazilian singer Claudia Leite on the official World Cup anthem "We Are One," FIFA announced in Rio on Thursday.

"Only music and football can attract 80,000 people to a stadium, but a concert has just one artist, while football has 22," said FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke at Brazil's Maracana Stadium.

"We are here to break down barriers and show that through sports and music we are one," said Pitbull, a Cuban-American rapper whose real name is Armando Christian Perez, at the event held here five months before kickoff.

Leite said the song would show off her country's love affair with musical and sporting rhythm.

"Music is my passion and football is the passion of the Brazilian people," the singer said. "We want to show the passion and the culture -- that's what we have in this record.

We are in the finishing phases.

"This music will be a goalazo!" she added, using a term which means "great goal" in Spanish and Portuguese.

Lopez was not in Rio for Thursday event.

Former Brazilian skipper and World Cup winner Cafu said the song "incorporates the rhythms of Brazil and of the Brazilian people -- people will dance to the World Cup beat."

Alexandre Schiavo, president of FIFA commercial partner Sony Music Brazil, also praised the happy marriage between football-loving Brazil and its infectious music.

"Brazilian music is very rich and music and football is a passionate combination," Schiavo said.

Organizers hope the recording enjoys similar success to Colombian star Shakira's "Waka Waka" signature tune from the last World Cup, held in South Africa in 2010.

That track was a huge success, notching up more than half a billion Youtube views.

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Texting while walking impairs stride, poses risks: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Texting while walking impairs a person's ability to follow a straight line and keep a normal pace, and may pose risks to pedestrians according to a study out Wednesday.

Researchers at the University of Queensland in Australia decided to study texting while walking since it appeared no one had actually scientifically analyzed how the modern pre-occupation impacts a person's gait.

Anecdotally, the evidence was clear, even among the 26 people they selected for the study: one in three admitted to having had some sort of texting accident, "including falls,

trips and collisions with obstacles or other individuals."

Previous research has shown that texting and walking in virtual environments can raise the risk of accidents.

The rise in the number of pedestrians injured while using their mobile phones to talk or text since 2006 has also raised concern, and some towns in the United States have gone so far as to ban the activity.

For this study, volunteers agreed to walk about nine meters (yards) without any distraction so their gait could be tracked with a three-dimensional movement analysis system.

Then, they did the same

walk while reading on their mobile phones, and again while texting.

They swerved the most while texting. They also slowed down, and their heads and necks adopted a newly rigid posture that was not seen during their phone-free walks.

Posture and balance were also compromised.

Reading while walking was not quite as bad, but still worse than simply walking.

"Texting, and to a lesser extent reading, on your mobile phone affects your ability to walk and balance," said lead author Siobhan Schabrun.

"This may impact the safety of people who text and walk at the same time."

Reducing fevers raises spread of flu: study



According to the study published in Proceedings of the Royal Society, an individual whose fever has been reduced is also likely to feel better and is therefore more likely to interact with others, and spread the pathogen.

"Even when treatment is not aimed at fever specifically, fever is likely to be reduced, because most common drugs that relieve other typical symptoms of infectious diseases also contain an antipyretic component," said the study.

OTTAWA (AFP) - Taking over-the-counter medication to reduce a fever might help a person to feel better, but may also be increasing the spread of the virus, according to a new Canadian study.

Higher body temperatures help to kill viral and bacterial infections and prevent bacteria and viruses from replicating.

But people are increasingly taking medications that contain ingredients including ibuprofen, acetaminophen and acetylsalicylic acid to suppress fevers and other flu symptoms.

And this may increase both the rate and duration of "viral shedding," allowing sick people to pass more of the virus to others through coughing or sneezing.

Researchers at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, looked at several studies and crunched the data to conclude that up to five percent more people contract influenza each year because of widespread use of drugs to suppress fevers.

The percentage may seem small, they commented, but consider the number of people who contract the flu each year.

The researchers, in another example, suggested that widespread use of Aspirin during the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic "may have increased the disease severity and consequently death rates."

The Spanish flu killed an estimated 50-100 million people.

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Microsoft tops expectations with record revenue

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Microsoft soared to record revenues in the last quarter the company said Thursday, confounding Wall Street forecasts on the back of strong demand for Xbox consoles, Surface tablets and Internet "cloud" services.

The US-based technology titan reported net income of \$6.56 billion on revenue that hit a record high of \$24.52 billion in the quarter that ended December 31.

Microsoft shares climbed more than three percent to \$37.25 in after-market trades on the Nasdaq following release of the earnings figures.

Sales of Surface tablets more than doubled from the previous quarter to hit \$893 million, and Microsoft sold 7.4 million Xbox videogame consoles, with 3.9 million of those being new-generation Xbox One.

Bing's share of the Internet search market grew to 18.2 percent while its share of the on-line search ad market grew about a third, according to Microsoft.

Meanwhile, money made from selling Windows software to computer makers slid by three percent due to continue soft demand by consumers for personal computers, according to Microsoft.

Microsoft built its empire on packaged computer software but has been under pressure to adapt to lifestyles revolving around mobile devices and programs offered as services hosted as services in the Internet "cloud."

Microsoft reported that cloud services to businesses and consumers posted strong growth.

Ballmer late last year unexpectedly announced he is stepping down to clear the way for a successor who will help the company reinvent itself for the mobile Internet Age.

Microsoft has indicated that the hunt for a new chief executive should be over early this year.

Analysts eagerly awaiting word of who Ballmer's successor with are also watching to see how active co-founder and board member Bill Gates will be in running the company.

Ballmer was a classmate and friend of Gates from their days at Harvard University in the 1970s.

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Clearstream pays \$152 mn over Iran sanctions violations

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Luxembourg financial clearing house Clearstream Banking will pay the United States \$152 million to settle accusations it illegally helped Iran's central bank access the US financial system, the Treasury announced Thursday.

The Treasury said that in 2007 and 2008, Clearstream held an account in a bank in New York on behalf of the Central Bank of Iran that contained \$2.8 billion worth of securities, violating US controls

on financial dealings with Tehran.

Clearstream further transferred the CBI's interests, an act of custody and related banking services under US jurisdiction which the Treasury said constituted an "apparent violation" of the US Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations.

The Treasury said Clearstream told OFAC officials in 2008 it would terminate its business with Iranian clients.

But it transferred the CBI's assets to another European bank's newly opened custody account at Clearstream.

Clearstream "had reason to know" that the CBI still retained beneficial ownership of the securities, it said.

The Treasury, however, added that the settlement announced Thursday was lower than it could have been due to Clearstream's strong response of strengthening its compliance with US sanction rules.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

P	A	L	E	R		A	P	T		
E	L	E	V	A	T	E	M	A	O	
S	O	M	E	H	O	W	I	G	O	
T	H	O		Y	E	L	L	A	T	
S	A	N	K		P	R	E	E	N	S
				R	O	O	S	T		
C	A	L	I	C	O		S	P	A	M
A	B	A	S	E	D		A	M	A	
I	N	D		A	L	T	E	R	E	D
R	E	L		N	E	A	R	I	N	G
O	R	E			J	E	S	S	E	

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



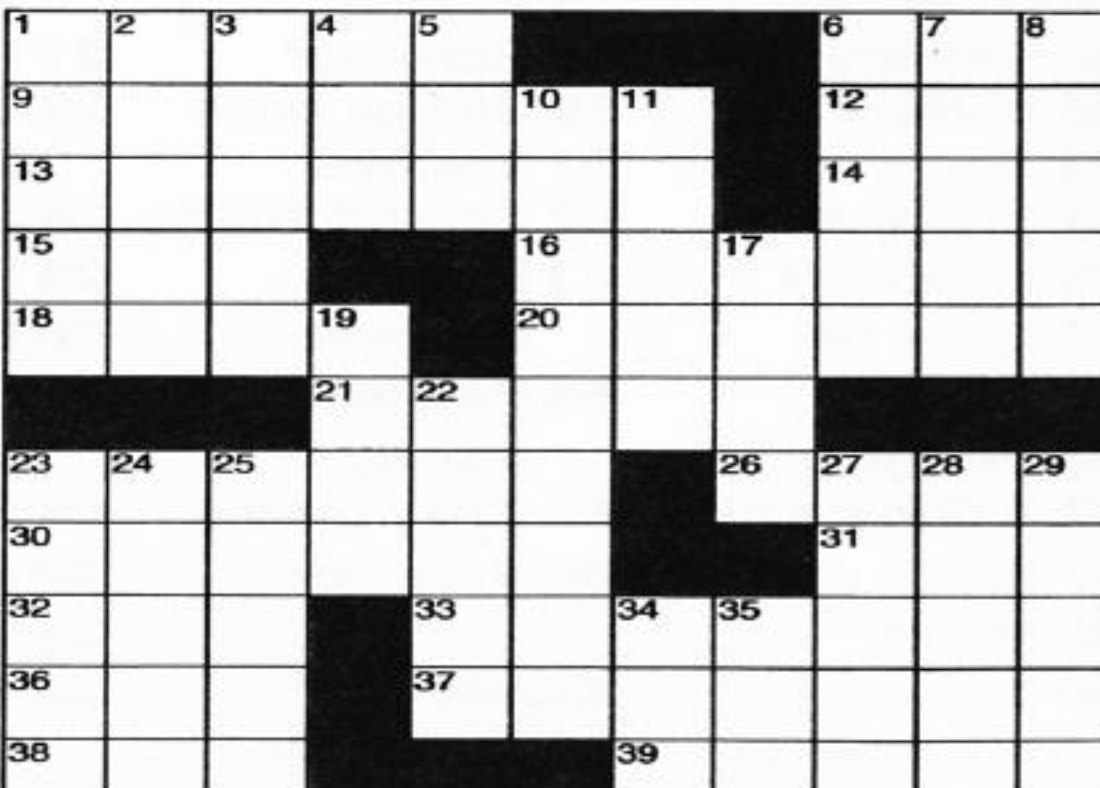
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Whiter
 - 6 Fitting
 - 9 Promote
 - 12 ___ jacket ('60s style)
 - 13 One way or another
 - 14 "Here ___ again!" (2 wds.)
 - 15 Conjunction, informally
 - 16 Berate noisily (2 wds.)
 - 18 Went down
 - 20 Primps
 - 21 Chicken perch
 - 23 Printed cotton cloth
 - 26 Canned meat brand
 - 30 Degraded
 - 31 Physicians' gp.
 - 32 Not Dem. or Rep.
 - 33 Changed
 - 36 Sister or cousin

- 37 Close to
 - 38 Lode load
 - 39 Politician Jackson
- DOWN**
- 1 Annoyances
 - 2 Hawaii's "hello"
 - 3 Detroit dud
 - 4 Abel's mom
 - 5 Cheer sound
 - 6 A miss is as good as ___ (2 wds.)

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- 7 Believing in many gods
- 8 Whistle sounds
- 10 Lap dog (2 wds.)
- 11 Water jugs
- 17 Sanctions
- 19 Singer Kristoferson
- 22 Scuba diver's locale
- 23 Egyptian city
- 24 "Li'l" Dogpatch fellow
- 25 Serving spoon
- 27 Plaster of ___
- 28 Hymn closings
- 29 Commercial manicurist
- 34 ___ Mahal
- 35 Poetic "before"



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		3	1			8		
			6				7	3
7				9	5		1	
		6				2	9	
2								4
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	1		5	6				2
5	6				4			
		8			3	9		

SOLUTION

5	9	6	1	2	8	2	4		
8	1	4	2	6	2	9	5		
2	4	7	8	9	5	6	1	3	
1	8	9	2	2	5	7	6		
4	9	6	6	9	1	2	2		
2	6	2	1	5	4	9	8		
9	1	4	5	8	6	2	8	2	
6	2	5	2	8	9	4	6	1	
6	2	8	2	4	4	1	6	5	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Delicious Breakfast

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at

8am, patrons can now order 2 eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on, after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie, so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are



ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to

watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursday; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.

Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches!

Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality, it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded get-



away, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when

complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas, The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the

investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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Pistorius in compensation talks with slain girlfriend's family



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Legal teams for South African paralympic star Oscar Pistorius and his slain girlfriend's family are discussing an out-of-court financial settlement over her murder, a lawyer said Thursday.

"The compensation talks do not affect Pistorius's murder trial, which is set to start on March 3.

De Bruyn declined to give any details but local media report the 26-year-old athlete may pay as much as \$272,000 (200,000 euros) after shooting dead his lover last Valentine's Day.

The 29-year-old model and law graduate was supporting her parents financially and they have been struggling since her death.

Pistorius denies murder, saying he shot his girlfriend through a locked bathroom door in his upmarket Pretoria home because he thought she was an intruder.

Lawyers reportedly have been talking for months about a possible settlement which could preempt a civil damages case by the Steenkamps, in a legal move that would be separate from the murder trial.

Pistorius faces charges of murdering Steenkamp as well as discharging a firearm on two separate occasions before her death.

The shooting death shocked the world and brought the sprinter's career to an abrupt halt.

Falcao faces knee op, set to miss World Cup



PARIS (AFP) - Monaco's Colombian striker Radamel Falcao requires surgery on the left knee injury he picked up in Wednesday's French Cup tie which almost certainly rules him out of the World Cup. News of the star striker's operation was confirmed Thursday in a statement issued by his club and will have caused consternation back home in Colombia. While the club did not specify how long they expected him to be out of action the news will raise huge concern back in Colombia who are drawn in Group C at the World Cup with Ivory Coast, Greece and Japan.

Australian Open



MELBOURNE (AFP) - Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka reached his first Grand Slam final after edging out Tomas Berdych in four tight sets at the Australian Open on Thursday. The eighth seed beat the Czech 6-3, 6-7 (1/7), 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/4) in three hours 31 minutes and will play either Rafael Nadal or fellow Swiss Roger Federer in Sunday's final. Wawrinka, who upset three-time defending champion Novak Djokovic in the quarter-finals, will supplant his close friend Federer as the Swiss number one unless the 17-time Grand Slam champion wins the title. Federer has held the top Swiss ranking since 2001.

Sandro Rosell resigns as Barcelona president



MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona president Sandro Rosell, facing legal action over the signing of Brazil star Neymar, resigned after a three-and-a-half year spell in charge of the Spanish champions.

Pressure had mounted on Rosell, 49, after a judge agreed on Wednesday to hear a case made against him by one of the club's own members for alleged misappropriation of funds in the deal which brought Neymar to the Camp Nou last year.

Sporting vice-president Josep Maria Bartomeu will replace Rosell as president for the remainder of the board's mandate, which runs until 2016.

Rosell once again defended his position on the Neymar signing by describing the complaint made against him as reckless.

"From the first day I have said that the signing of Neymar was done correctly and it has provoked jealousy from some of our rivals," he told a press conference at the Camp Nou.

Bartomeu will now take over and dismissed rumours

earlier in the day that presidential elections could be called in June.

"My first message as the new president of Barca is to announce the continuity of our project until 2016," he said.

"We continue with the utmost desire and commitment to maintain the sporting, economic and social excellence of our club."

Rosell has routinely insisted that Neymar cost the club 57.1 million euros (\$77 million), but refused to divulge how much money each of the parties to the deal received on confidentiality grounds.

That led Jordi Cases to launch the case against Rosell last month for not informing the club's members as 40 million euros of the fee was supposedly paid to a business owned by Neymar and his father called N&N.

The club were subsequently asked to submit the contracts that sealed the player's arrival in Catalonia, as well as Barca's financial accounts for the past three years.

And the judge, Pablo Ruz, decided that the documentation handed over reveals "sufficient elements" for an investigation to go ahead.

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Penalty kick takes RCA to the Final Betico Croes 2014 Cup

ORANJESTAD - After an exciting match between RCA and Britannia, the game ended with a tie of 1-1 after 90 minutes.

This resulted in that they had to shoot a penalty kick. After each party scored the first 2 penalties it was RCA's turn, and Roman "Ali" Aparicio did the honors for RCA. And, unfortunately after many failures, finally and after 8 penalties keeper Arthur Werleman of RCA stood by Sebastian's ball of Britannia. This meant that RCA had to score their last penalty to pass for the final. It was Jean Aser "Zaga" Ulijse's turn to shoot the goal and he did so successfully so that RCA moved to final. This time, RCA took revenge over Piedra Plat's Britannia and sent them back home crawling.



RCA will be playing in the Copa Betico Croes final on Saturday January 25th at 8:00 in the evening at the Centro Deportivo Guillermo Trinidad. It leaves to be seen who will win the game on Wednesday night between Estrella and Riverplate to determine who will play.

On Tuesday the Halftime Special was not won by anyone. This means that the games on Wednesday began with Afls.1400 in the pot. Along with this there was also a Pizza prize from Domino's Pizza and a case of Coca Cola, a case of

Gatorade and an intro to CrossAruba. Also, an iPad Air from MIO Wireless. The general public is cordially invited to participate. Someone's ticket will win one of these fabulous prizes.

Robert Geerman will be there to entertain everyone via www.avbaruba.aw where you can watch the game live. Entrance is Fls.10 and Silver entrance is Fls.15. All those who attend these games now until the Subway Cup 2014 will be contributing Fls. to the WilhelminaKankerfunds. This is an initiative of AVB in connection with Jerwin Giel's health struggle. Jerwin is an Estrella player who is struggling with cancer. Those who have a Season Card, may watch the games free of charge.

AVB is grateful to all her sponsors: Domino's Pizza, Coca Cola, Gatorade, CrossAruba, Big Wheel Lottery and MIO Wireless. Many thanks. All Aruba is cordially invited to all our games. Come and support local football!

NBA: Durant, James among 28 named to US Olympic pool

WASHINGTON (AFP) - NBA scoring leader Kevin Durant and Miami playmaker LeBron James were among 11 members of the 2012 gold medal team named Thursday to the US player pool for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

Oklahoma City star Durant leads the NBA with 31 points a game while James, a four-time NBA Most Valuable Player, ranks second at 26.2 with New York's Carmelo Anthony third at 26.1 a game.

James and Anthony are two-time Olympic champions as are two other members of the pool, Brooklyn's Deron Williams and Chris Paul of the Los Angeles Clippers.

The only member of the US London lineup of NBA superstars not back is Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, who is injured.

Also returning from the London squad are New York's Tyson Chandler, New Orleans' Anthony Davis, Houston's James Harden, Golden State's

Andre Iguodala, Minnesota's Kevin Love and Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook.

The pool also includes 2008 Olympic gold medalist Dwight Howard of Houston and Los Angeles Clippers playmaker Blake Griffin, who was injured after being named to the 2012 Olympic team.

Two members of the American 2010 world championship team, Golden State's Stephen Curry and Chicago's Derrick Rose, out for the second season in a row with a knee injury, are also in the lineup.

The remainder of the pool includes Atlanta's Kyle Korver, on an NBA record run of consecutive games with a 3-point basket, Cleveland ace Kyrie Irving, Indiana star Paul George and Portland standouts LaMarcus Aldridge and Damian Lillard.

The rest of the lineup includes Utah's Gordon Hayward, Denver's Kenneth Faried, Detroit's Andre Drummond, Washington's Bradley Beal, Sacramento's DeMarcus Cousins, Golden State's David Lee and Klay Thompson and San Antonio's Kawhi Leonard.

In all, the roster features the NBA's 11 current top scorers, seven of the NBA's top 11 rebounders, assists leaders Paul and Curry and blocked shots leader Davis.

These players will for the base for the American lineup at this year's World Cup of Basketball, formerly known as the World Championships, in Spain as well as the 2016 Olympics in Brazil and the 2015 Tournament of the Americas if the US team fails to qualify for Rio by winning the World Cup.

A smaller group will begin training camp in July for the World Cup, set for September in Spain.

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Mens Erger Je Niet LIVE ("Don't You Worry" Game) on Betico Day

ORANJESTAD - In connection with the celebrations on Betico Day, Centro di Barrio Brazil will be organizing a special night playing the Mens Erger je Niet game (Don't You Worry) live. From 8:00 pm the team will get on the field to confront each other. The team of Jun Jun Racing (yellow), Bai Gana Baca (green), Special Olympics (red) and Keep on Walking (black). The game will continue at 9:30 with a tremendous team between Midwest Muffler (yellow), Heavy Yiu (green), Cana Malo Pasa Bon (red) and Indira Skin Care (black). The night promises to be very colorful and full of excitement as this popular game is known for. Centro di Barrio Brazil together with the Committee of Mens Erger Je Niet Live extends a cordial invitation to all fans to come out and celebrate the day in a pleasant family atmosphere. The bar and kitchen will be well stocked with great food and cold drinks.





Regering *van* Aruba
Minister van Toerisme, Transport,
Cultuur en Primaire Sector
Dhr. Otmar E. Oduber



Ban conmemora y celebra den union e fecha natal di e gran estadista di nos isla, Betico Croes. Un persona cu a contribui grandemente den nos desaroyo como pais.

Feliz Dia di Betico.

Otmar E. Oduber

Minister di Turismo Transporte, Sector Primario y Cultura

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